

Application No. 09/771,733
Amendment dated January 17, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated December 22, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are pending.

Claims 1-45 are subject to an election requirement.

Claims 4-6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 37 and 39-45 have been withdrawn from consideration.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 30, 32, 34-36 and 38 are hereby submitted for reconsideration.

In the Office Action dated December 22, 2005, the Examiner subjected claims 1-45 to an election requirement. The Examiner has divided the claims into Species 1-4.

The first species identified by the Examiner includes claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 30, 32, 34-36 and 38, directed to “a method for encoding an error correcting code for providing an error correcting code to a client signal” as illustrated in Figs. 1-12. The second species identified by the Examiner includes claims 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43, directed to “a method for decoding a super FEC signal” as illustrated in Figs. 13-15. The third species identified by the Examiner includes claim 44, directed to “a transmitting apparatus for performing a conversion between a plurality of client signals” as illustrated in Figs. 16-18. The fourth species identified by the Examiner includes claim 45, directed to “a network including a plurality of transmitting

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apparatus for performing a conversion between a plurality of client signals” as illustrated in Fig. 19.

In response to the Examiner’s requirement for an election, applicant provisionally elects to continue prosecution on Species 1, figures 1-12, as designated by the Examiner, and the claims readable thereon, namely claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 30, 32, 34-36 and 38. Should the Examiner conclude, at the close of prosecution, that there is no claim generic to all four species, Applicants reserve the right to file divisional application for the withdrawn claims prior to the issue of this patent.

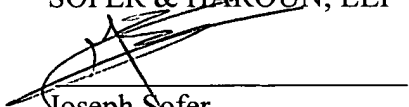
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as claimed, is now in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of this application he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted

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